OHIO JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
175 S. Third Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

ohio grocers
1391 W. 5th Ave
Columbus, OH 43212

OHIO COUNCIL OF RETAIL MERCHANTS
50 W. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

September 3, 2026

The Honorable Matt Huffman
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High St. 14th Fl.
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Sustaining Ohio's Progress on SNAP Payment Accuracy

Dear Speaker Huffman:

The Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program provides resources to 1.28 million Ohioans, including half a million children, to help them purchase food. Each year, these families spend over $3 billion at grocery stores and other retail merchants across the state. The program is administered through a state-county partnership under federal oversight. County Job and Family Service departments are responsible for determining eligibility, calculating benefit levels, and undertaking fraud investigations.

Due to federal legislation passed last year, Ohio and other states may become financially responsible for a share of SNAP benefits issued each month. The amount of the cost share is determined by a state's annual payment error rate for SNAP benefits as reported by USDA. To avoid a cost share, the state must achieve a payment error rate under 6%. **Thanks to the efforts of county JFS departments across the state, working in partnership with the Governor, General Assembly, and ODJFS, Ohio lowered its error rate from 9.01% to 6.76% for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025.** This progress is significant and moves the state much closer toward its goal of an error rate below 6% in the current federal fiscal year.

Ohio's error rate is well below the national average of 10.62%, and is also the lowest of the 10 most populous states. Only eight states, all of them with smaller populations, achieved an error rate below 6%. (National results for FFY 2025 may be accessed here). County JFS agencies and ODJFS are working very hard to continue lowering the state's error rate in FFY 2026, but federal financial resources for SNAP administration will be cut in half permanently this October. State resources from HB 730 will fill about one third of the total resource gap for counties in the current fiscal year, but far less proportionately for metro counties due to equal distribution amounts.

We are asking for the legislature's continued support for this effort. The state's error rate is measured annually, and it will take ongoing investments in staff, training, information technology, and client education to continue moving in the right direction. County JFS Directors understand the critical importance of the SNAP payment error rate and are committed to making further progress. We appreciate the leadership and support of the General Assembly in providing state funding outside of the normal budget process to partially offset the loss of federal

reimbursement in SFY 2027, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure Ohio's SNAP program, which pumps around $3 billion into Ohio cash registers annually, can remain efficient, effective, and accurate. We invite you to visit your county JFS to learn more about SNAP and many other important programs they administer. Please refer to the OJFSDA reference guide for more information about the process for measuring the SNAP payment error rate.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Jon Honeck
Executive Director
Ohio JFS Directors Association
jhoneck@ojfsda.org
614-221-3688

Joe Ewig
Executive Director
Ohio Grocers Association
Jewig@ohiogrocers.org
614-296-9144

Gordon M. Gough
President and CEO
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants
gordong@ohioretailmerchants.com
614-221-7833